

FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A paint job, bright colours over a dull white, unfinished.

Many pictures of a man, some with his family, arranged like a shrine.

The closet door, with a large mirror, reflects LUCY (7) as ANNA (39) tucks her in.

LUCY

Don't go.

ANNA

What's got into you tonight?

Lucy points. Anna follows -- the closet.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You are just like your mom.

LUCY

How?

ANNA

I never told you I was always scared of the closet?

LUCY

Never.

ANNA

One more story.  
(at Lucy's smile)  
But that's all!

Anna stares Lucy down until she nods acquiescence.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Do you remember the story of atoms?  
(at Lucy's nod)  
Alright. This is off the top of my head, so bear with me.

Lucy relaxes as Anna shifts into full storytelling mode.

ANNA (CONT'D)

There was a great globe, and she hurtled through space, and living things of all sizes and shapes climbed all around her, and she held them tight so that they wouldn't fall off into the stars below.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

For a long time, these things lived and died and never looked up, but one day something did, and when it looked up it called itself human. And for a long time, humans thought that they, and the earth they were on, must be the centre of everything. But one day, they realized that the center of everything was far, far, far away.

LUCY

Outcasts.

ANNA

Where do you pick up these words?

LUCY

All around.

Anna smiles. Apropos.

ANNA

And then, not so long ago, humans realized that they had always been right. Do you remember the raisin bread we baked?

LUCY

Gross.

ANNA

They realized that the universe is like that. Expanding. Everything inside it is getting further away from everything else. And each of us, me and you and everyone you can think of -- we're like a raisin in that bread. And since everything is getting further away from each of us, each of us is the centre of the universe.

Lucy yawns.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Because the universe is as big and as small as this room. Or, as you. And everything big and everything small and everything bad and everything good...they're all made up of the exact same thing. And you're at the centre of it.

Anna stops. Lucy's asleep.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Well. Right here, right now,  
Lucy...I love you.

She kisses Lucy, easing the light off as she exits.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Lucy lies awake.

She sits up, stares at the closet. Turns to the pictures on the wall, the man with his arms around her.

She kisses the picture, crosses to the closet. The mirror reflects her as she nears.

She throws the closet doors open.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

In the closet is Lucy's exact bedroom, now with the original dull white paint on the walls.

TIM (41), the man from the pictures, lies in the bed. Anna (37) stands next to him. Lucy (5) has her back turned.

On the desk, a dustpan with a shattered cup in it.

TIM  
Lucy...baby. I won't be gone  
forever. I'll see you. I promise.

Lucy keeps her back turned.

ANNA  
Luce, your father wouldn't leave if  
he didn't have to.

Lucy (7) stares at her younger self.

Younger Lucy spins around, teary-eyed, to face her parents.

Lucy slams the closet doors shut.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Lucy's bedroom, with the half-finished paint job.

Lucy stares at the mirror. In her reflection, she can see the pictures of her dad behind her. She breathes hard.

A tear. She wipes it off.

In the mirror, she opens her eyes to reveal the face of Anna.

Lucy looks at the mirror as Anna stares back.  
She throws open the closet doors.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

In the closet, Lucy's original bedroom, dull white paint.  
Anna kneeling, cleaning up a broken cup. Tim at the window.

ANNA  
You believe that you'll see her  
again.

TIM  
Do you?

ANNA  
I do.

TIM  
She'll grow up, learn about death.  
The common conception. She'll hate  
us for it.

ANNA  
We'd be lying to her if we didn't  
tell her what we believed.

TIM  
Now that I'm here...

Anna crosses to him.

ANNA  
Of course you have doubts.

TIM  
I don't want to leave you.

Silence. Lucy looks on.

TIM (CONT'D)  
She wouldn't even understand the  
goddamn words. Myocardial  
ischaemia.

ANNA  
She doesn't need to.

TIM  
The voice of God...the voice of God  
told me that I would see her again.

Anna smiles.

ANNA  
You don't usually go for that sort  
of thing...

TIM  
I don't know if I can lie to her.

Anna kisses his shoulder.

Tim gasps, clutches his heart.

ANNA  
Are you alright?

Lucy's hand goes to her heart.

FOOTSTEPS outside the bedroom door.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Lucy's coming. Let's get you in  
bed.

Tim leans heavy on Anna.

The door swings open.

The closet doors swing shut.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy stares at her own reflection.

She turns and runs to the door.

LUCY  
Mommy! Mommy!

The door handle won't budge. Lucy more and more frantic.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
MOMMY!

The door swings open. Lucy collapses into the woman's leg.

She looks up to see ADULT LUCY (26). Backs away.

ADULT LUCY  
Hey little one.

Lucy studies her.

LUCY  
You're me.

ADULT LUCY  
Or, you're me.  
(smiles)  
I was here first.

LUCY  
Where's mommy?

ADULT LUCY  
Don't you wanna chat with me?

LUCY  
I don't talk to strangers.

ADULT LUCY  
I'm you! Surely I don't count as a  
stranger.

LUCY  
I never met you.

Adult Lucy extends her hand.

ADULT LUCY  
Lucy, I'm Lucy.

LUCY  
**I'm** Lucy.

ADULT LUCY  
Can't we both be Lucy?

Lucy weighs her options.

LUCY  
Fine.

ADULT LUCY  
So they gave you the whole thing.  
The universe is all one, so you'll  
see dad again, blah blah blah.

LUCY  
So?

ADULT LUCY  
They're lying to you.

LUCY  
Daddy wouldn't lie.

ADULT LUCY  
Dad's dead, Lucy.

Lucy sticks out her tongue.

ADULT LUCY (CONT'D)

Look, I've had a lot longer to think about this, alright? The sooner you realize they lied to you, the sooner you can get on with being a kid. And trust me, being a kid is as good as it's going to get.

LUCY

Why are you so sad?

ADULT LUCY

I'm not sad, Lucy. I was sad when I didn't know the truth. But I realized, and I moved on. Things disappear, Luce, and they don't come back.

Lucy looks at Adult Lucy, then at the closet.  
She takes Adult Lucy's hand and pulls her to it.  
They each open one door.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Tim lies in the dull white bedroom. Alone.  
He coughs hard, winces at the pain.  
Adult Lucy puts her arm around Lucy.  
Tim doubles over, clutching himself.

TIM

Not yet. Please. I need to talk to her.

More coughing.

TIM (CONT'D)

Not yet...

He reaches for a cup of water at the side of his bed, but coughs, fumbles, knocks it to the ground. It shatters.

He starts to cry.

TIM (CONT'D)

I don't want to die. Please. I don't want to leave, I don't want to die, I want-

Lucy slips out of Adult Lucy's arms and steps towards Tim.  
Adult Lucy watches as she crosses to him and leans over him.

She whispers into his ear and kisses his forehead.  
She turns and looks back at Adult Lucy.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Adult Lucy tucks Lucy into bed.

Lucy rolls over, facing away.

Adult Lucy stares down at her hair.

ADULT LUCY  
Lucy?

LUCY  
Uh huh?

ADULT LUCY  
Do you mind if I stay with you  
tonight?

LUCY  
Uh uh.

Adult Lucy slips under the covers.

The two Lucys pull the blankets over themselves, becoming  
nothing but two bunches of hair sticking out from the covers.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anna enters on tiptoes and crosses to the bed.

Nothing of Lucy is visible but her hair.

ANNA  
Right here, right now, Lucy...I  
love you.

She kisses the hair without moving the covers.

Slips out of the room on tiptoes.

FADE OUT.

THE END.